

# Jeffrey's Story

I was born and raised in a Catholic family, so it was only natural I would go to a Catholic high school. Starting high school was still a very nerve-racking experience as I'm sure many people can relate to. However, JP II helped me feel welcome and at home very quickly and made my freshman year really enjoyable due to how friendly and cordial all the upperclassmen and faculty were.

The start of my sophomore year is when the biggest challenge began. For context, I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease when I was eight years old, so I have been in and out of the hospital many times. It was



very disappointing news to hear that I would have to spend the first part of sophomore year in a hospital. I was nervous I would be behind in academics and overwhelmed with all the missed work when I returned. I was afraid I

would be left behind by my classmates and miss out on the friendships I had made. Those days in the hospital were some of the most stressful days I've experienced, and the bad hospital food definitely wasn't helping.

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My first days back at JP II, however, were a lot smoother than I had anticipated. Many of my classmates welcomed me back and offered to fill me in on what I had missed. Along with that, many teachers had excused any work I had missed which made my transition back to JP II much more manageable. The caring atmosphere at JP II really made me feel at ease and made sophomore year much more enjoyable than I had expected.

Knowing that JP II has such a vibrant and friendly community makes waking up in the morning to go to school a little easier. I am truly grateful for the many donations from those supporting and surrounding our community to help it grow and thrive. My medical condition has put my family and me through a lot of stress, and financial strain, especially with my tuition fees. I am blessed to have such a loving community that is there supporting me and my family, so I can attend this school that has been such a blessing to me. I sincerely hope others can experience what I have at JP II and your giving helps make that possible. Thank you!

*Jeffrey Velasco*

Jeffrey Velasco  
Class of 2025

## Our Mission

To provide a Catholic secondary education within a challenging academic, spiritual and co-curricular environment that develops young men and women who are intellectually strong, spiritually alive and committed to service.

